

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data collection node comprising:
 - an interface for receiving signals from a sensor;
 - an interface for connecting said data collection node to a computer network; and
 - a controller for generating data based on measurements of said received signals and communicating that data to a server via said computer network.
2. The data collection node of Claim 1 wherein said controller causes said data collection node to be registered with said server connected to said computer network when said data collection node is first activated on said computer network.
3. The data collection node of Claim 1 wherein said controller communicates said data via HTTP.
4. The data collection node of Claim 1 wherein said controller receives data from said server that determines a measurement to be made by said controller.
5. The data collection node of Claim 1 wherein said controller communicates with said server via a proxy server on said computer network.
6. The data collection node of Claim 1 further comprising a clock for generating time readings that are included with data that is communicated to said server.
7. The data collection node of Claim 6 wherein said clock is set via a message received from said server.
8. A method for operating a computer network to collect data, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a data collection node connected to said network, said data collection node comprising:

an interface for receiving signals from a sensor; and

a controller for generating data based on measurements of said received signals and communicating that data to a server via said computer network;

causing said server to provide a web page for accessing data generated by said controller in response to receiving said registration message; and

causing said controller to send a message to said server containing data generated by said controller after said controller sends said registration message.

9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising the step of causing said controller to send a registration message to said server prior to communicating said data to said server.

10. The method of Claim 8 wherein said controller communicates said message containing said data via HTTP.

11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said controller receives data from said server that determines a measurement made by said controller.

12. The method of Claim 8 wherein said controller communicates with said server via a proxy server on said computer network.

13. The method of Claim 8 wherein said data collection node further comprises a clock for generating time readings that are included with data that is communicated to said server.

14. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of resetting said clock to a time determined by a message received from said server.

15. The method of Claim 8 further comprising the step of providing access to said Web page via the Internet.

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